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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 and 11-33 are currently pending in this application. Claims 3, 4 and 6-10 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended and new claims 11-33 have been added to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 8-10 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,810,236. Claims 6, 7 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended and now recites features which would not be obvious in view of the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,810,236. The withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,294) in view of Budka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,288) and Hashem et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,569).

Claims 1, 2 and 5 have amended to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. The Applicants submit that neither of Ward, Budka and Hashem teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the features recited in the amended claims 1, 2 and 5.

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Based on the arguments presented above, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 2, 5 and 11-33, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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